

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

Please amend the claims as follow:

--1-14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A fire shelter storage system allowing rapid deployment comprising:

an emergency fire shelter comprising a floor and a canopy connected thereto, wherein said floor is oval in shape and has an opening therein for a person to gain access to the fire shelter,[[;]] wherein said canopy is semi-capsular in shape having a main body shaped like a half cylinder and two ends shaped like 1/4 spheres,[[;]] and wherein said floor and canopy are constructed of a material that is heat and fire resistant;

an outer protective pouch sized to receive the emergency fire shelter unit through an open end of the pouch, the pouch further including a cover detachably covering the open end and retained by a releasable fastener attaching a portion of the cover to a portion of the pouch; and

a handle having one end attached to the emergency fire shelter unit and sized so that when the fire shelter unit is received within the pouch and the cover is in place over the opening, the handle may extend out of the pouch adjacent to the releasable fastener to present an exposed end to a user;

whereby the emergency fire shelter is removed from the pouch by applying a force to the handle to release the releasable fastener and extract the fire shelter unit from the pouch.

16. (original) The fire shelter storage system of claim 15, wherein the emergency fire shelter unit is a folded and sealed in a protective envelope and wherein the handle is attached to the protective envelope to be separate from the emergency fire shelter.

17. (original) The fire shelter storage system of claim 15, wherein the handle is a flexible strap.

18. (original) The fire shelter storage system of claim 15, wherein the releasable fastener includes first fastener halves attached to the pouch and cover and wherein the handle includes second fastener halves whereby the handle may be interposed between the

releasable fastener with the first fastener half of the pouch releasably attached to a second fastener half of the handle and remaining second fastener half of the handle releasably attached to the first fastener half of the cover.

19. (original) The fire shelter storage system of claim 15, wherein the releasable fastener is a fabric hook and loop fastener.

20. (original) The fire shelter storage system of claim 15, wherein the fire shelter unit includes a secondary rigid protective sleeve holding a folded emergency fire shelter unit sealed in a protective envelope.--